

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-7 are pending herein. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by Fig. 3 and in the specification at pages 6-8, for example. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 5 and 7 have been added as supported by Figs. 1 and 2 and in the specification at pages 4-6, for example. New claim 6 has been added which depends from claim 5 and includes the content of original claim 3. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

1. The Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4 under §112, second paragraph, is noted but deemed moot in view of the amended claims submitted above.

2. Claim 4 was rejected under §102(b) over Murano. The cancellation of claim 4 renders this rejection moot. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against new claim 7, it is respectfully traversed.

New claim 7 recites an output electrode array for a photoelectric imaging sensor using a photomultiplier comprising a plurality of plate electrodes in an array arrangement at the first side of the output electrode array and another plurality of plate electrodes in an array arrangement at the second side of the output electrode array, with each of the plate electrodes at the second side of the output electrode array corresponding to one of the plate electrodes at the first side of the output electrode array. New claim 7 further recites support electrodes that electrically connect each of the corresponding plate electrodes at the first side and at the second side of the output electrode array, with the first side of the output electrode array facing inside of the photomultiplier and the second side of the output electrode array facing outside of the photomultiplier.

Murano discloses an image forming device including a lens unit of at least two lens and an image element array mounted on a base plate, with the lens unit fixed to the base plate and juxtaposed to the lens element by a spacer. The image forming device disclosed by Murano radiates the surface of the photoconductor with light selectively emitted from individual LED elements of the LED image element array in response to an external electrical signal to form an image in the photo conductor.

New claim 7 is distinguishable from Murano because Murano fails to disclose each and every element of new claim 7. Specifically, the image forming device disclosed by Murano uses an array of solid state sensing devices and does not use a photoelectric imaging sensor using a photomultiplier, as is claimed. Further, Murano also fails to disclose an imaging sensor where the first side of the output electrode array faces the inside of the photomultiplier and the second side of the output electrode array faces outside of the photomultiplier, as is claimed.

Based on the above, Murano fails to disclose each and every element of new claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

3. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under §103(a) over Fisher. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites a photoelectric imaging sensor comprising a photo cathode converting incident light into photoelectrons, a photomultiplier that is kept inside of a vacuum intensifies the photoelectrons converted by the photo cathode and a two-dimensional output electrode array of plate electrodes is arranged in a plane

which receives the photoelectrons intensified by the photomultiplier. Amended claim 1 further recites a connecting means for electrically connecting the output electrode array to pick up electrodes arranged outside of the photomultiplier.

Fisher discloses a multichannel photomultiplier tube structure that includes a photo cathode member with a plurality of dynode members, each having a separating means associated therewith, and an anode structure of individually isolated anode electrodes for each dynode member to form separate photomultiplier channels.

Amended claim 1 is distinguishable from Fisher because the multi-channel tube photomultiplier of Fisher is limited to outputting information in a single dimension. Further, there is nothing in the disclosure of Fisher demonstrating that the device disclosed by Fisher could be used in a photoelectric imaging sensor, as claimed. In contrast, amended claim 1 recites a two-dimensional output electrode array to provide the two-dimensional fine information required for outputting an image.

Based on the above, Fisher fails to teach or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

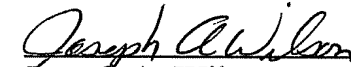
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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